

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A communication system comprising:

a first management apparatus for managing first privilege information generated in accordance with a transaction that is conducted by a user via a network in a virtual world and a user identifier that is used for identifying the user in such a manner that the first privilege information and the user identifier are correlated with each other, wherein the user identifier is stored in and uniquely associates the user to an IC card and the transaction that is conducted by the user in the virtual world is made using the IC card; and

a second management apparatus for managing second privilege information that is generated in accordance with a transaction conducted by the user in a real world and used for identifying the user in such a manner that the second privilege information and the user identifier are correlated with each other, wherein the transaction that is conducted by the user in the real world includes a settlement processing based on the user identifier and a price, and is also made using the IC card, and

wherein at least one of the first management apparatus and the second management apparatus converts the first or second privilege information that is managed by the other into privilege information to be managed by itself according to a prescribed conversion factor and manages the privilege information obtained by the result of the conversion, such that the first privilege information is automatically converted to the second privilege information and added to a total of the second privilege information for the user when the user conducts transactions in the virtual world using the IC card.

2. (Original) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first privilege information and the second privilege information is an addable point.

3. (Previously presented) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first privilege information and the second privilege information are associated with a maximum amount of money that the user can respectively use in the virtual world and the real world.

4. (Original) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first management apparatus and the second management apparatus converts, in response to a request from the user, the first or second privilege information that is managed by the other into first or second privilege information to be managed by itself, and manages the first or second privilege information obtained by the conversion.

5. (Previously presented) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein the first privilege information and the second privilege information are the same type of information.

6. (Original) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein the second management apparatus performs settlement processing in response to a settlement request about a transaction that the user has conducted.

7. (Previously presented) The communication system according to claim 2, wherein at least one of the first management apparatus and the second management apparatus performs the processing of issuing the point.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein the first management apparatus provides the first privilege information in accordance with a credibility of the user or a contribution by the user in the virtual world.

10. (Previously presented) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein the second management apparatus provides the second privilege information in accordance with a credibility of the user or a contribution by the user in the real world.

11. (Currently Amended) An information processing method comprising the steps of:
managing first privileges information generated in accordance with a transaction that is conducted by a user via a network in a virtual world and a user identifier that is used for identifying the user in such a manner that the first privilege information and the user identifier are correlated with each other, wherein the user identifier is stored in and uniquely associates the user to an IC card and the transaction that is conducted by the user in the virtual world is made using the IC card;
managing second privilege information generated in accordance with a transaction that is conducted by the user in a real world and the user identifier that is used for identifying the user in

such a manner that the second privilege information and the user identifier are correlated with each other, wherein the transaction that is conducted by the user in the real world includes a settlement processing based on the user identifier and a price, and is also made using the IC card; and

converting, by at least one of a first management apparatus and a second management apparatus, the first or second privilege information that is managed by the other into privilege information to be managed by itself according to a prescribed conversion factor and managing the privilege information obtained by the results of the conversion, such that the first privilege information is automatically converted to the second privilege information and added to a total of the second privilege information for the user when the user conducts transactions in the virtual world using the IC card.

12. (Previously presented) The information processing method according to claim 11, wherein the first privilege information and the second privilege information are the same type of information.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The information processing method according to claim 11, wherein at least one of the first privilege information and the second privilege information is an addable point.

16. (Previously presented) The information processing method according to claim 11, wherein the first management apparatus provides the first privilege information in accordance with a credibility of the user or a contribution by the user in the virtual world.

17. (Previously presented) The information processing method according to claim 11, wherein the second management apparatus provides the second privilege information in accordance with a credibility of the user or a contribution by the user in the real world.